

**REMARKS**

The applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5-10 and added new claims 11-12 in order to more particularly and distinctly define the present invention patentably over the references recited. Applicant respectfully submits that said amended claims are now placed in position for allowance, and detailedly clarifies the allowance reasons as follows.

***Claim Objection***

Claim 8 is objected to as being depended upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102***

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang, Yao-Hao (US Pat. No. 6,210,218 B1, hereinafter Chang).

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Olson et al. (US Pat. No. 6,210,218 B1, hereinafter Olson).

***Amended Claim 1 Overcomes The Rejection Proposed And Should Now Be Allowed***

The examiner in the Office action rejected independent claim 1 on Chang. According to what the examiner states in this office action, the applicant has incorporated the allowable features of claim 8 into claim 1 to form amended claim 1. Thus amended claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2, 4 and 8 are dependent upon amended claim 1. That is, all the limitations of claim 1 are incorporated in each of claims 2, 4 and 8. Therefore the rejections to claims 2, 4 and 8 should now be withdrawn and these claims should be allowed, since claim 1 is patentable over Chang. Claims 3, 5-7 are cancelled by the applicant, and the rejections related thereto are now moot.

***Amended Claim 9 Overcomes The Rejection Proposed And Should Now Be Allowed***

The examiner in the Office action rejected independent claim 9 using Olson. Claim 9 has been amended to patentably define over the reference. The applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claim for the following reasons:

Olson discloses an electrical connector having an insulative housing 88, a plurality of contacts 92 received in the housing, a divider 102 formed in the rear portion of the housing, and a spacer 90 attached to the housing.

Claim 9 recites an electrical connector comprising an insulative housing defining a plurality of channels; a plurality of contacts received in the corresponding channels; a plurality of dividers formed in the rear portion of the housing; and a spacer attached to the housing and defining a plurality of island platforms extending from a commonly common surface thereof, each of the island platforms forming a passageway therethrough. The spacer defines a plurality of intertwined troughs formed among said island platforms.

Nevertheless it is obvious seen that the spacer in Chang defines a plurality of inclined ramp surfaces 124, 125, 126, 127 (referring to FIG. 13b-13d and Col. 9, Line 42-44 of the specification), not platforms as shown in the applicant's invention. Furthermore, each of the ramp surfaces only defines a hole 120 therethrough, and no trough is defined among the ramp surfaces. Therefore, it is submitted that the electrical connector disclosed in the applicant's present invention is novel in light of Olson.

Further, due to the above distinguishing novelty limitations in amended claim 9, the applicant's invention is to provide an electrical connector which has a spacer for protecting contacts from being damaged during the course of mounting the connector nto a PCB. Olson fails to teach or suggest this

advantage. Rather, the spacer disclosed in Olson defines a plurality of inclined ramp surfaces, which increase the complexity of manufacturing and increase manufacturing cost. And the spacer in the applicant's invention defines a plurality of intertwined troughs among the platforms, which can avoid heat-distortion during the molding process.

The applicant asserts that amended claim 9 is unobvious under section 103 in light of Olson.

None of the other references recited (inclusive of US Pat. No. 6,354,875, US Pub. No. 2004/0029428, US Pat. No. 6,508,676 and US Pat. No. 6,179,629) discloses a connector having a spacer defining intertwined troughs. Thus, claim 9 is novel and unobvious over these references as stated above.

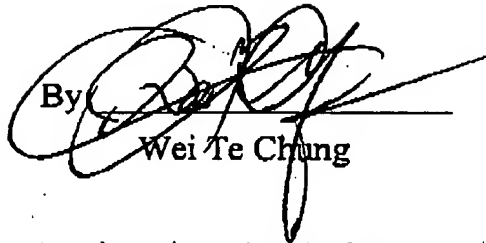
Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that amended claims 9 should now be allowed.

Claim 10 and new claims 11 and 12 are dependent on amended claim 9. That is, all the limitations of claim 9 are incorporated in each of claims 10-12. Therefore the rejections to claim 10 should now be withdrawn and new claim 11-12 should be allowed, since claim 9 is patentable.

### ***Conclusion***

For all the above reasons, the applicant asserts that all the pending claims are now in proper form and are patentably distinguishable over the prior arts. Therefore the applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
CAO, XIANG

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